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New Year's Reflections and Suggestions.

Our warmest New Year's greetings and good wishes to all the workers for peace everywhere.

The cause in which we are all so deeply interested and for which we are patiently laboring never seemed grander or surer of final triumph than at the opening of this new year. It is true that the year just closed has not been marked by very striking peace events. It was, however, characterized by that type of occurrences which indicate steady progress and increasing power. The peace organizations in all countries have carried on their work with exceptional devotion and strengthened confidence. Their numbers have steadily grown and their ideals and policies have won increased favor among men of all classes, both in public and in private life.

Successful National Peace Congresses have been held in several countries, the most notable being that at Chicago in May last, in which a number of prominent men of this and other countries took a conspicuous part. The Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration held in the same month what has been pronounced the most influential session ever convened

at that now famous centre of peace propaganda. The Interparliamentary Union has completed the organization of its permanent Bureau at Brussels and placed it in charge of Mr. Christian Lange of Christiania, the able and efficient secretary since its foundation of the Nobel Institute. The International Peace Bureau at Berne has been as active and efficient as ever as the organ of the peace societies and congresses.

The failure of the Peace Congress at Stockholm, on account of the great labor disturbances, instead of weakening, seems on the whole to have stimulated the peace workers of the world to more energetic efforts toward the advancement of the cause. Indeed, the most impressive feature of the peace movement at the present moment is the striking growth and consolidation of sentiment in its favor throughout all the civilized nations.

On the side of practical attainment the year has been distinctly noteworthy. The number of treaties of obligatory arbitration between the nations two and two has gone up to nearly one hundred, and several of those which had expired have been renewed for another five years. The number of cases of controversies referred to the Hague Court for adjustment has surpassed that of any previous year since the tribunal was set up, and other disputes have been referred to individual arbitrators, as, for instance, the Franco-Mexican Case to the King of Italy, and the United States-Chilean difference to the King of England. The International Prize Court, provided for by the second Hague Conference, has been rendered certain by the action of the London International Maritime Conference in drawing up the code for its procedure.

Perhaps the most important practical peace event of the year was the recent action of Secretary of State Knox in formally inviting the other powers to join with the United States in investing the Prize Court with the functions of a regular court of justice, and thus securing the establishment of the International High Court of Justice, for which, in principle, the second Hague Conference voted unanimously, and for which the world has so long waited as the secret of the organization and maintenance of permanent peace. Whether the world's court of justice is set up in this way or not, Mr. Knox's action will secure the further careful consideration of the subject by the governments, and that will be in itself a most important fact.

We are not unaware of the troublesome disturbances which have taken place in certain quarters, whose effect upon one is naturally of the opposite character. But even these are much less discouraging than similar occurrences formerly were. They disturb very little the steady course of the world. The Moroccan campaign has practically ended, having been called off by the government because of the strong and widespread opposition of the Spanish people, an opposition not to the immediate war only, but clearly to war in general. The miserable condition of affairs in Nicaragua, which is now substantially ended, has been chiefly striking as an exceptional example of what was formerly almost the normal state within the Latin-American countries. This revolution has set out in clear light the fact that in nearly all the states to the south of us settled order is now the rule. At any rate, this is the case between them, if not so fully within them.

The tension between Great Britain and Germany, in spite of the continued laying down of Dreadnaughts, has within a few weeks perceptibly decreased, and the responsible statesmen of both countries, as well as large groups of the citizens of both, are devoting themselves to the removal of misunderstandings and the restoration of confidence and friendly feeling. The recent declaration of Count von Bernstorff of Germany, Ambassador at Washington, as to the colonial policy of Germany, an utterance which has been supported by the Foreign Office in Berlin, has done not a little to hasten the restoration of good feeling between Germany and Great Britain.

As to the relations of this country with Japan, the solid spirit of amity and goodwill has become so manifest and dominating, through the utterances of responsible officials of both countries, especially those of Japan, that even Congressman Hobson has not been able, by his recent speech in the House of Representatives, to produce the least repetition of the flurry of two years ago.

We may well then begin the New Year's work with increased hope and courage. The constructive side of our peace movement is clearly stronger and more sure of itself than ever before. The institutions growing out of the Hague Conferences are going on to completion as fast as one could reasonably hope, and the outcome of their completion will, by general agreement, be the beginning of the era of universal and permanent peace. It is true that the rivalry of armaments between the great powers still continues, and that the burdens imposed thereby on the peoples are becoming heavier and heavier. But on the other hand the opposition to this rivalry is developing with great rapidity, and if this opposition continues to grow, the day is not very far off when the whole business of competitive arming will collapse and the peoples begin to breathe freely after

being relieved of the heavy load under which they have so long been staggering.

Our work, then, for the coming year is very clear and definite. We must first of all continue to develop and concentrate public opinion in behalf of the great measures which the nations have undertaken to carry through in the Hague Conferences. Vast numbers of people still have very little idea of what the movement means. They must be aroused, instructed, and their coöperation secured. Again, every possible influence must be brought to bear upon the governments to make the third Hague Conference, which is not very far away, still more powerful and complete in its results than its predecessors have been. We must further continue our protest against the spirit of injustice and disrespect between nations and peoples, which still remains to so great an extent as the unfortunate legacy of the ages of universal war. We must likewise not cease to point out and protest against the irrational and ruinous character of the great preparations for war which the nations are making, and the baseness and folly of the spirit out of which these spring. The task before us is still a great one, and it is no time to rest on our oars. The great work of realizing our best ideals for the world requires the consecration and constant use of all our faculties and all our resources.

The President's Message.

President Taft's first annual message, read to Congress on December 7, gives the usual prominence to the relations of the United States with other nations. These relations, he declares, "have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding, and are very generally satisfactory." That is a simple statement, but what a world of meaning it contains!

Prominent among the events touching foreign relations was the special agreement entered into January 27, 1909, for the submission of the North Atlantic Coast fisheries questions to a tribunal made up of members of the Hague Court of Arbitration. He recites that on October 4 the printed case of each government was presented to the other, and that the counter case of the United States is now in course of preparation. The settlement of this controversy, which involves interests of great importance to the American fishing industry, will remove a source of constant irritation and complaint. The case is, he declares, the first one involving such great international questions which has been submitted to the Hague Court.

He recalls the appointment of two commissioners, under the provisions of the treaty of April 11, 1908, to define and mark the boundary between the United States and Canada in the waters of the Passamaquoddy Bay. The commissioners have failed to agree, and arbitration will now be resorted to, as provided in the treaty.